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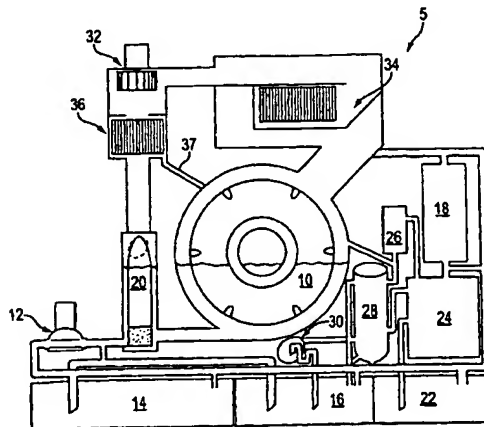
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR EXTRACTING WATER IN A DRY CLEANING PROCESS INVOLVING A SILICONE-BASED SOLVENT AND METHODS ENHANCING THE PROCESS OF CLEANING



(57) Abstract: A system and method are provided for separating water from a solvent in a dry cleaning application. According to the invention, an inlet is capable of receiving a mixture of silicone-based dry cleaning fluid and water from a condenser of a dry cleaning apparatus. A chamber is coupled to the inlet for receiving the mixture from the inlet. A porous structure is positioned in the chamber for separating the dry cleaning fluid and the water. The dry cleaning fluid passes through pores in the porous structure. An outlet is coupled to the chamber to remove the dry cleaning fluid from the chamber in the substantial absence of the water. A system for cleaning articles comprised of circulating siloxane solvent through a basket, draining the basket into tanks, centrifuging the articles and then drying the articles and recovering the siloxane solvent, and then cooling the said articles and removing said articles. In addition, the ability to remove articles after centrifuging and transfer the articles to a recovery drier allows for greater efficiency.

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